

NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



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Grant Will Fund Missing Link on Southeast Rail Corridor

Allows state to buy rail corridor, providing connectivity and economic opportunities

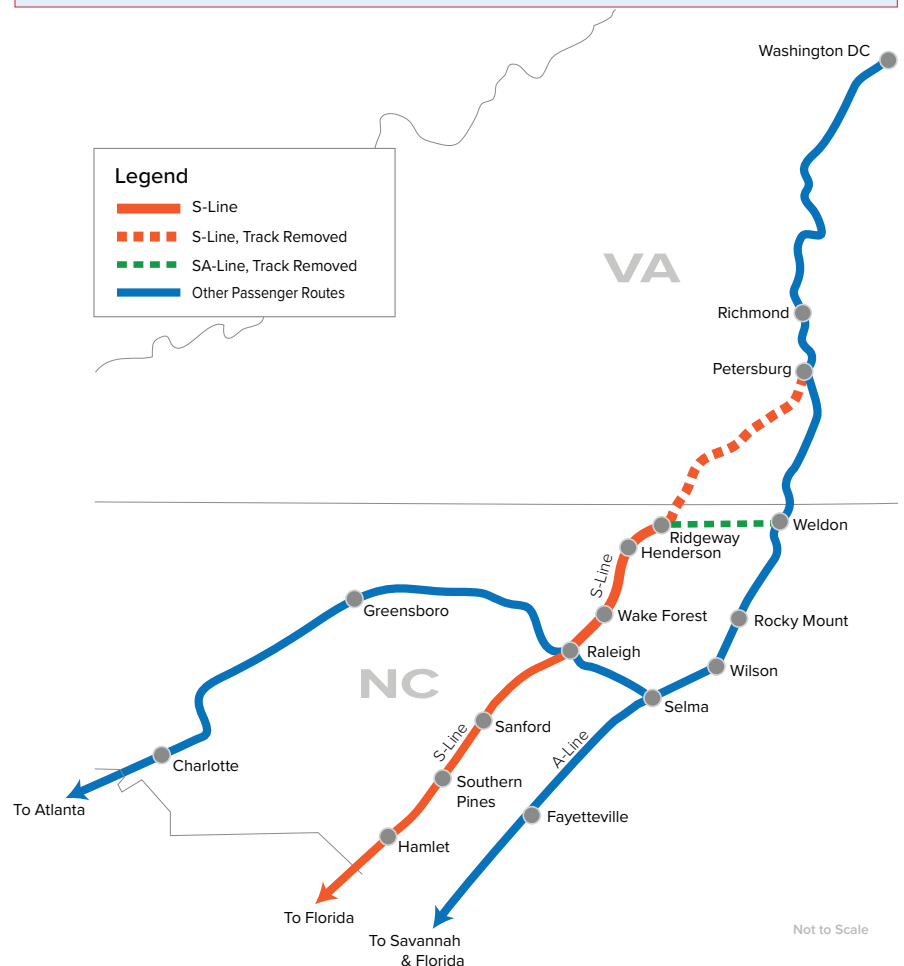
The N.C. Department of Transportation received a \$47.5 million federal grant in September to purchase the S-Line rail corridor between Raleigh and Ridgeway in Warren County. The award follows Virginia's announcement last December that they are acquiring the S-Line between Petersburg and Ridgeway as part of a larger rail corridor acquisition and improvement program.

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded this grant to NCDOT's Rail Division as part of the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program. This investment into the Southeast Corridor will provide better connections between rural and urban communities while also spurring new economic development opportunities. In addition, the corridor will help offer improved freight services, and will trim up to 1.5 hours off passenger rail services between Raleigh, Virginia and D.C.

"A modernized freight and passenger rail network will connect the Southeast while spurring new economic development opportunities," said Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette.

In 1992, the U.S. Department of Transportation named the Southeast Corridor as one of the first five federally designated higher speed rail corridors in the country. The corridor is a network of passenger and freight rail that runs from Washington, D.C. to Jacksonville, Fla., encompassing D.C., Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida.

"Preserving our rail systems is crucial to future tourism and economic growth, and this funding will help ensure the S-Line in Eastern North Carolina is secure for generations to come," said Senator Tillis. "I am proud to have worked with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to secure this grant and I will continue to prioritize improving infrastructure across our great state of North Carolina."



"Today's awarded grant is a huge win for North Carolina's rail system," said Senator Burr. "The S-Line currently serves as the missing link to the Southeast Corridor. This grant will be used to purchase the right of way to not only improve passenger rail access, but expand freight services in the state. I applaud Secretary Chao for recognizing the importance of this project to North Carolina's economic development."

"Developing intercity passenger rail service along the 'S-Line' corridor will improve mobility, bolster safety, and reduce highway congestion between Raleigh and Richmond," said Representative David Price. "Today's \$47.5 million federal grant to NCDOT for right-of-way acquisition is a critical step forward in this process, which builds on years of collaboration between transportation officials in North Carolina, Virginia, and the Federal Railroad Administration, as well as our congressional delegation. As Chairman of the House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, I was pleased to secure dedicated funding in fiscal year 2020 appropriations legislation for projects like this one. I look forward to continuing to work with NCDOT, my colleagues, and other stakeholders to advance this critical project."

"I am thrilled with today's \$47.5 million grant announcement by the U.S. Department of Transportation for the purchase of the S-Line corridor in North Carolina," said Congressman Butterfield. "Developing this rail line is a critical step in completing the Raleigh to Richmond portion of the Southeast Corridor. Today's announcement begins what I hope will be a long line of future announcements on enhanced transportation, employment, and economic development opportunities for North Carolina and, specifically, residents and businesses in Warren and Vance Counties."



southeastcorridor.org

Traveling Safely Onboard with NC By Train and Amtrak

Across the United States, Amtrak and states providing passenger rail services have partnered to make train travel as safe as possible for passengers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nationwide, precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of our passengers with enhanced cleaning procedures and social distancing measures in place. Face coverings are also required in the stations and on trains.

The *Carolinian* trains 79 and 80 have consistently been among the best performing trains in the nation for ridership recovery during the pandemic. In addition to the *Carolinian*, *Piedmont* trains 73, 74, 75 and 76 are in service between Raleigh and Charlotte and the stops in between, providing safe, essential transportation.



Photos: Amtrak

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for more information
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Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund Grants Awarded

The NCDOT Rail Division awarded approximately \$16.7M in matching grant funds to seventeen short line railroads for projects that are important to ensure the state's rail network is able to handle increased traffic and heavier railcars to serve the state's businesses and industries. Funded by the Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement fund (FRRCSI), the projects will provide more than \$32M in rail infrastructure improvements statewide.

FRRCSI supports rail infrastructure health, safety and performance throughout the state, enabling NCDOT to partner with rail companies on improvement projects. This partnership helps railroads meet customer needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner while also preparing them for growing service demands and partnerships with new businesses and industries across the state.

Projects awarded funding and their estimated total costs, including railroad matching funds, are as follows:

Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway Company (ACWR)

Total Cost: \$3M

The project will construct two phases of track spur and storage at the ACWR shop facility, construct two double-ended passing sidings and install new crossties in various locations in Moore and Montgomery counties.

Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway Company (ACWR)

Total Cost: \$9.1M

The project will construct and improve nearly 32,000 track feet of track, and install new crossties in various locations over 21 miles of track in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly, Montgomery and Moore counties. Additional project components include construction of a storage siding track, three double-ended sidings, an industrial spur, and a lead track in a switching yard. A crossover and a track for fueling and sanding will be extended and two culverts will be improved.

Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway Company (ACWR)

Total Cost: \$1.2M

This project in Stanly County will construct a new rail siding extension, a new rail yard and improve a highway-rail grade crossing.

Aberdeen and Rockfish (AR)

Total Cost: \$0.8M

These improvements will install new rail and crossties, surfacing and tamping, and make highway-rail crossing surface upgrades on rail corridor where heavy loads are transported in Hoke County.

Alexander Railroad Company (ARC)

Total Cost: \$0.6M

The project will improve track and switches, install crossties, resurface track, relocate a siding and consolidate highway-rail grade crossings in Iredell County.

Atlantic and Western (ATW)

Total Cost: \$1.4M

The project will replace and upgrade rail, install new crossties, rehabilitate grade crossings and provide bridge improvements in Lee County.

Atlantic Railway (ATL)

Total Cost: \$0.4M

The project will install new crossties, provide bridge improvements and improve sections of the corridor for service in Stanly County.

Blue Ridge Southern Railroad (BLU)

Total Cost: \$0.7M

The project will provide bridge improvements and modernization along the Canton and Skyland Subdivisions in Buncombe and Haywood counties.

Blue Ridge Southern Railroad (BLU)

Total Cost: \$0.2M

The project will complete a second phase of slope stabilization and improvements in the Balsam Mountain slope in the Canton subdivision in Jackson County.



**Blue Ridge Southern Railroad (BLU)****Total Cost: \$0.7M**

The project will upgrade turnouts in the Canton yard in Haywood County.

Blue Ridge Southern Railroad (BLU)**Total Cost: \$0.3M**

The project will upgrade an eight-track grade crossing and install new rail in the Canton subdivision in Haywood County.

Caldwell County Railroad

Caldwell County (CYCW)**Total Cost: \$0.7M**

The project will install new crossties, switch ties and rail on the Hickory Runaround siding, renew grade crossings, address drainage issues, and improve embankment roadbed shoulders in Burke, Catawba and Caldwell counties.

**Carolina Coastal Railway (CLNA)****Total Cost: \$2.1M**

The project will install new bridge ties and crossties, plus improve bridges on the Main Line and Rocky Mount line in Beaufort, Pitt, Greene, Nash and Wilson counties.

**Chesapeake & Albemarle (CA)****Total Cost: \$0.8M**

The project will make track, bridge and other improvements in Chowan, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties.

**Great Smoky Mountains (GSM)****Total Cost: \$1.7M**

The project will upgrade rail, install new crossties, provide ballast and tamping, improve bridges, and provide ultrasonic testing and bridge inspections in Jackson, Graham, Macon and Swain counties.

**Laurinburg and Southern (LRS)****Total Cost: \$1M**

This project will replace and upgrade rail, upgrade switches and improve crossing surfaces in Scotland County.

**North Carolina and Virginia (NCVA)****Total Cost: \$2M**

The project will replace and upgrade rail, install new crossties, ballast and resurface track, and repair bridges in Bertie, Hertford and Northampton counties.

**North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA)****Total Cost: \$0.8M**

The project will make improvements on track operated by the Carolina Coastal Railway and install new bridge ties and a new locking mechanism on the movable bridge connecting the main port to Radio Island in Carteret County.

**Piedmont and Northern (PNRW)****Total Cost: \$1M**

This project will complete construction of track storage and a second switching lead to a transload facility in Gaston County.

**Red Springs and Northern (RSN)****Total Cost: \$0.4M**

The project will install new crossties, culverts and surface track in Robeson County.

Rj Corman Railroad Company

**RJ Corman (RJCS)****Total Cost: \$1M**

Improvements include new track materials, track surfacing, new crosstie installation, new ballast, and improvements to grade crossings in Columbus County.

**Wilmington Terminal (WTRY)****Total Cost: \$ 1.2M**

The project will upgrade rail on the lead track and turnouts, replace crossties, and ballast and surface track in New Hanover County.

**Yadkin Valley (YVRR)****Total Cost: \$ 1.5M**

The project will replace and upgrade rail, install new crossties, provide ballast and surface track in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry and Wilkes counties.

Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update



Trade Street looking south toward the block that will be the primary station area for the City's mixed-use development



Construction of a passenger tunnel and retaining wall at 4th Street

The Charlotte Gateway Station Phase 1 project is targeted for completion in 2023. The scope includes bridges to support passenger rail tracks, a center island level-boarding platform, plus railroad track and signals.

Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update continued



Construction of the retaining wall at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard



Construction of platform foundations



Construction of platform canopy foundations



Terminal site looking north

Construction is ongoing at the Carolina Connector (CCX) intermodal terminal in Edgecombe County. Significant grading, utility and paving activities are nearly complete. Construction of the yard track and buildings are nearly finished. The material for the movable electric cranes have been delivered and are now on site awaiting assembly.



Terminal site looking west

CCX update continued



Terminal north lead looking north



Terminal south lead looking north



Terminal looking north